



**PITT COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
MISSION STATEMENT**

THE MISSION of the Pitt County Department of Social Services is to enable the achievement of self support and self sufficiency. It is our aim to prevent abuse, neglect, and exploitation of vulnerable citizens, but if necessary, we intervene to provide protection. We will strive to help those families who are dependent on public assistance benefits to find employment and obtain child support.

OUR COMMITMENT is to each individual or family we serve. We focus on each person or family individually. We will respond in a respectful, confidential, efficient and compassionate manner. We aim to offer promptly available benefits and timely services.

WE RECOGNIZE the worth and dignity of each person or family we come into contact with, and we recognize the diversity of the different cultures which make up the Pitt County Community.

Under Our Wings

Our Web page may be viewed at
www.pittcountync.gov

Click on About Us, then Depts. and Services, then Social Services
On the DSS page, click on Services and Program, then Under Our Wings

MISSION

To strengthen and support any existing program and develop new ideas across the county and make them more effective in education, advocacy and recruitment of foster and permanent homes for all children.

Pitt County Department of Social Services



Foster Care and Adoption Program

Telephone: (252) 902-1110



**With your help we can make a difference in the lives of
children and families in Pitt County.**

**Pitt County Department of Social Services
1717 W 5th Street
Greenville, North Carolina 27834**

Foster Care is a temporary living arrangement for abused, neglected, and dependent children who need a safe place to live when their parents or another relative cannot take care of them. Often their families face issues such as illness, alcohol and drug addiction, or homelessness. Length of stay in foster care varies from a few days to much longer.

WHO ARE OUR CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE?

- Children who have love to share, special talents, different likes and dislikes
- Children who have been abused, neglected, or abandoned
- Children who may have emotional or behavioral problems
- Children who are African-American, Asian, Bi-racial, Caucasian, Hispanic, or Native American
- Children who may have physical and/or mental disabilities
- Children who may have special medical needs
- Children who need a safe place to call “home”



FOSTER PARENTS:

- Care for a child until their parents or other family members can resume the responsibility or until a permanent home is found
- Make a commitment to help a child through a difficult time
- Provide temporary care for kids
- Provide for the basics of life – food, shelter, and clothing
- Encourage positive relationships
- Arrange for medical and dental care
- Discipline in a positive way
- Work as a part of a team...Prepare the child to return home

Who Can Be a Foster Parent?

- You must be 21 years of age
- You must have a stable home and income
- You can be any race, gender or ethnic origin
- You must be willing to be fingerprinted and have a criminal records check
- You can be single or married
- You can live in rental housing or be buying your own home
- If you work full-time, day care can be provided to the foster child
- You need to have a high school diploma or GED

Requirements to Be Licensed as a Foster Parent:

- Complete an application and profile
- Complete 30 hours of training
- Maintain a drug-free environment
- Everyone in the household must have a basic physical exam. Adults must have a TB test.
- Have a fire safety check completed by the local fire marshal’s office
- Have a fingerprint and criminal records check completed

Adoption is the legal and social process in which a child who is born to one set of parents becomes the child of another parent(s). The adoptive parent(s) then assume all legal rights, obligations and responsibilities as parent(s) to the child.

What Are The Steps to Adoption?

- Complete an application and questionnaire (profile)
- Complete 30 hours of training
- Provide three references
- Each adoptive parent and any other adult in the home must have fingerprints and criminal records checked
- Complete a pre-placement assessment of your family with a social worker
- Approval/Disapproval of your assessment by the adoption committee
- Family recruitment search efforts within the North Carolina Foster Care System to identify a child for your family
- When a child is identified, sharing of information occurs, face-to-face interviews take place between the child and family, and visits occur between the child and family
- When all parties agree that the child and parent are a good match, then an official placement is made and the legal process begins. When all parties agree, a final order for adoption is requested from the court